

REMARKS

Claims 41, 44 and 45 are currently amended. Claims 2 to 21, 23 to 34, 36 to 40, 42 and 43 remain unchanged.

No new matter is added by the amendments.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 41, 44 and 45 are currently amended in light of the **Response to Arguments** section of the Office Action dated October 27, 2010 where it is stated that the limitations "associated said current draw result with a further play request IS PREVENTED ONLY IF the game ending state is achieved" are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Therefore, the arguments provided in the Response to Office Action dated August 31st, 2010, still stand and the amended claims are believed to overcome the claim rejections.

Amended claim 41 now recites "determining whether a game ending state is achieved **or not**", "**upon a position determination, ending** said participation game" and "**upon a negative determination, maintaining** said current draw". Thereby, amended claim 41 clearly recites only two possible states in regard of the determination of the game ending state: being achieved or not. The action of "ending the participation game" is performed upon the game ending state being achieved. The actions of "maintaining the current draw" and "associating said current draw result with a further play request" are performed upon the game ending state being determined as being **not** achieved. Therefore, according to the meanings of "achieved or not", "ending", "maintaining" and "associating [...] with a further play request", the association of the current draw with a further play request **is prevented only** if the game ending state is achieved.

Amended claim 44 now recites "evaluating fulfillment **or not** of an end-of-game criterion", "**upon a positive evaluation** of fulfillment of said end-of-game criterion, **ending**" and "**upon a negative evaluation** of fulfillment of said end-of-game criterion, **continuing**". The Applicant submits that arguments similar to the ones regarding

amended claim 41 apply; "upon a negative evaluation", "continuing said game" must be understood to infer the association of the current draw with a further play request **being preventing only** if the game ending state is achieved.

Amended claim 45 now recites "determining whether a game ending state is achieved **or not**", "**upon a positive determination, ending**" and "**upon a negative evaluation, continuing** said game". The Applicant submits that arguments similar to the ones regarding amended claim 41 apply; "upon a negative determination, continuing said game" must be understood to infer the association of the current draw with a further play request **being preventing only** if the game ending state is achieved.

The Applicant submits that all other claims rejected or otherwise allowable herein not discussed, are dependent upon claims deemed allowable by the Applicant or are deemed allowable by the Applicant according to the same arguments as discussed claims and thus should also be found allowable.

It is therefore submitted that the whole set of claims herein provided is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the Office Action's rejections is respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 2 to 21, 23 to 34, and 36 to 45 at an early date is solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Response to an Office Action or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,
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